direct investment in India are comparable with incentives offered by other Asian countries to their people settled in foreign countries;

(b) whether the contribution of NRIs to the total direct investment has been very poor as compared with investment made in other countries by their non-residents;

(c) if so, the reasons for poor response by NRIs; and

(d) the steps being taken to encourage investment by NRIs is the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Government constantly review the policy relating to NRI investments to make it competitive and to provide adequate incentives and facilities to NRIs. With this end in view, Government have taken a number of steps to boost NRI investment. In certain selected sectors, 100% NRI equity is permissible with full repatriation benefits. As a result of all these efforts, NRI investment is steadily increasing ever since the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July, 1991 and till 30.9.96, investment proposals worth Rs.24171.62 crores approximately have been approved.

Review of Projects funded by World Bank

3279. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World bank has decided to undertake a review of the projects funded by it;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of these projects; and

(c) the reasons for the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Project monitoring is an on-going exercise conducted throughout the year so as to identify the bottlenecks in the implementation of the projects and to take immediate corrective steps. This excercise is carried out by the Department of Economic Affairs, line Ministries and State Governments. The World Bank also sends its missions essentially to review and monitor the projects jointly with the implementing agencies, the State Governments and Government of India. Besides, there is also a mechanism to jointly review the performance of the World Bank aided projects and portfolio, annually, in order to identify problem relating to poorly performing projects. Wherever the performances of a project is found unsatisfactory, decisions about the cancellations of loan/credits, partially or fully, are taken in consultation among the concerned project implementing authorities, Government of India and the World Bank.

As a follow-up to the meeting between Finance Minister and the President, World Bank, Central Ministries and State Governments, with a large number of World Bank aided projects, have been asked to set up a single point Project Monitoring Authority for intensive supervision of the projects. This will be combined with joint semi-annual reviews by Ministry of Finance and World Bank to ensure that aid-utilisation improves.

IMF and World Bank

3280. DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India is on the verge of losing its seats in the Board of IMF and World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Trade-with Thailand

3281. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India-Thailand seek to boost bilateral trade to over $ 2 billion by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, the measures being taken or proposed to taken to achieve the target;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to establish a business centre in Bangkok to promote the export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCES SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) During the Second meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation held in New Delhi on 4-5 November, 1993 both sides had agreed that it would be appropriate to have a two-way trade target of US $2 billion to be achieved preferably by 1997.

(b) Various measures have been taken to promote bilateral trade between India and Thailand which include holding of regular meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between the two countries exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and continuous interaction at official levels to sort out various operational problems in free flow of trade.

(c) and (d). Indian Mission in Thailand had proposed for establishment of a business centre in Bangkok. However, due to financial constraints the proposal could not be agree to.